

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Elliott Arroyo

AUG 2 0 2015

Brooklyn, NY 11237

RE: MUR 6636

Dear Mr. Arroyo:

The Federal Election Commission reviewed the allegations in your complaint received on September 4, 2012. On August 11, 2015, based upon the information provided in the complaint, and information provided by the respondents, the Commission decided to dismiss the complaint and close its file in this matter. Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter on August 15, 2015.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. See Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003) and Statement of Policy Regarding Placing First General Counsel's Reports on the Public Record, 74 Fed. Reg. 66132 (Dec. 14, 2009). The Factual and Legal Analysis, which more fully explains the Commission's finding, is enclosed.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. See 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(8).

Sincerely,

General Counsel

BY:

Jeff S. Jordan Assistant General Counsel Complaints Examination and

Legal Administration

Enclosure
Factual and Legal Analysis

## 1 FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION 2 3 FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS 4 5 RESPONDENTS: Mittman for Congress and MURs 6626, 6629 and 6636 6 Tess Mittman in her 7 official capacity as treasurer 8 Robert Mittman 9 10 These matters were generated by Complaints filed by vendors (collectively, "vendors" or 11 12 "Complainants") who allege that they provided services for Mittman for Congress and Tess Mittman in her official capacity as treasurer ("the Committee" or "MFC") and candidate Robert 13 Mittman (collectively, "Respondents") and that MFC failed to reimburse them for those 14 services. Complainants assert that the amounts allegedly owed to them by MFC were not 15 disclosed as disputed debts on MFC's disclosure reports.<sup>2</sup> 16 Respondents assert that the Complaints arise from the actions of an unnamed Mittman 17 campaign consultant, whom Respondents contend hired the vendors to do work that allegedly 18 19 turned out to be unauthorized, substandard, or overpriced. Resp. at 1-2, MUR 6626; Resp. at 1, MUR 6629; Resp. at 1-2, MUR 6636. Respondents deny having a contractual obligation with 20 21 the vendors. Resp. at 1, MUR 6626; Resp. at 1, MUR 6629; Resp. at 1, MUR 6636. Respondents assert that the consultant "put up various persons to make sham complaints" about 22 the alleged debts, rather than respond to Respondents' requests for information regarding the 23 disputed claims. Resp. at 2, MUR 6636. Respondents also contend that "upon information and 24

Mittman was a first-time candidate for Congress from New York's Sixth congressional district who was defeated in the June 26, 2012 primary election; MFC s his principal campaign committee.

In its most recent disclosure report, MFC disclosed receipts, disbursements, and east on hand of \$0, as well as debts of \$202,535.66. See MFC 2014 April Quarterly Report at 2 (filed on April 11, 2014). After filing its 2012, October Quarterly Report, which covered the time period from July 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012, MFC has disclosed negligible receipts and disbursements, and has had no more than \$722.22 cash on hand since October 1, 2012. See, e.g., MFC 2012 Amended Year End Report at 2 (filed on March 19, 2013).

MURS 6626, 6629 and 6636 (Mittman for Congress, et al.) Factual and Legal Analysis Page 2

- belief" documents submitted by one Complainant were in fact prepared by the consultant, Resp.
- at 2, MUR 6636, and that some of the debt claims are fabrications. Resp. at 1, MUR 6629.
- 3 Respondents assert that in some instances, MFC made and reported expenditures to some of the
- 4 vendors, despite concerns about the amounts claimed and the work allegedly performed. Resp.
- 5 at 1, MUR 6626; Resp. at 1, MUR 6629; Resp. at 1, MUR 6636.
- 6 After the Complaints and Responses in these matters were filed, the Committee
- 7 disclosed the debts at issue in MURs 6626, 6629 and 6636 on its 2012 October Quarterly
- 8 Report, and it has continued to disclose them on its subsequent financial disclosure reports.
- 9 Furthermore, Respondents have made numerous attempts to seek information from the
- 10 consultant in an effort to comply with the reporting provisions of the Act and Commission
- regulations and to determine the validity of the claims.
- Given that this information has since been disclosed and placed on the public record, the
- 13 Commission concluded that it would be imprudent to dedicate any additional resources toward
- 14 further consideration of the allegations in this matter. Accordingly, in structuring its priorities,
- the Commission exercises its prosecutorial discretion and dismisses these matters pursuant to
- 16 Heckler v. Chaney, 470 U.S. 821 (1985).